

## **Fairfax County Human Services**

# **Community Investment in Response to Community Challenges**

## **Highlights and Statistics about the Human Services System Response to Community Needs**

**Prepared by the Department of Systems  
Management for Human Services**

## **The Human Services Community Challenges**

### **What are the Community Challenges?**

The Community Challenges were adopted in 1996 by the Human Services Leadership Team and the Human Services Council to provide a framework for looking at the broader mission of human services. The Challenges provide an alternative to the traditional agency-by-agency view of the human services system, and instead highlight the relationships between services offered in different parts of the system.

The Community Challenges have been used as the basis for the Human Services Performance Budget, as a tool in evaluating the County Executive's Advertised Budget Plans, and as a guide for setting priorities for the first two years of the Community Funding Pool process.

The seven Challenges cover the spectrum of community needs and issues that the human services system seeks to address. For each Challenge, there is a statement that describes the vision for the community's desired quality of life. The response to each Challenge involves a contribution and investment from the public sector; the private, non-profit, and community-based sectors; as well as other levels of government. The Performance Budget details the programmatic contribution of the County Human Service agencies, and the fiscal investment from the County's General Fund and other sources.

### **What's inside this brochure?**

This brochure is organized around the seven Community Challenges. For each Challenge, it presents the vision statement, examples of County human service programs that respond to the Challenge, and service utilization or performance statistics for those programs. The brochure

also presents a “*Did you know?*” section for each Challenge containing highlights from the County’s recent Community Assessment survey, the 2000 Census and other data sources. (See page 11 for a complete list of data sources. Unless otherwise noted, service statistics are from FY 2002 as published in the FY 2004 Advertised Budget Plan.)

### **I don’t use Human Services, so how does this affect me?**

Know it or not, every resident of Fairfax County is touched in some way by human services. At a minimum, anyone who has eaten in a local restaurant, had a drink of well water, played in a sports league game at the local elementary school field, or used a family day care provider has benefited from human service programs. Many others have received advice on helping elderly parents get nursing home care or home-based assistance, logged onto the *Child Care Central* website to find a daycare provider near their home, or have been reassured to see the response to West Nile Virus in their community. Finally, even if you are not a direct consumer of services, it is very likely that you have friends, neighbors, or co-workers who have received support for a disabled child, services for a family member struggling with substance abuse or mental illness, or assistance finding employment after a lay-off.

### **Where can I learn more?**

The back cover of this brochure lists reports and other information sources that are available at local libraries or on the Human Services web site. If you have additional questions, you may call 703-324-5638.

## **Challenge I: Providing Assistance to Promote Independence**

### **Vision:**

A community in which families and individuals are able to achieve their maximum potential for self-sufficiency.

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### **Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>**

- The Child Care Assistance and Referral Program served over 8,300 children in working families.
- Welfare-to-Work (VIEW) served 595 clients, 67% of whom were placed in a work activity. Those employed earned an average monthly wage of \$1,115.
- FASTRAN provided almost 510,000 rides to individuals with disabilities to reach jobs, appointments, and program activities.
- The Adult and Aging program provided over 450,000 meals to over 4,000 seniors.
- Attendance at Senior Center programs exceeded 191,000.
- Over 29,200 participants with physical, mental or developmental disabilities were registered in Therapeutic Recreation programs.

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### ***Did you know?***

- Over two-thirds of Fairfax County residents with disabilities (21 to 64 years) are employed.<sup>3</sup>
- 30% of Fairfax County residents (5 and older) speak a language other than English in the home.<sup>3</sup>
- Almost one-third of area children (12 and under) use or need daycare.<sup>4</sup>
- 63.4% of Fairfax County families with incomes below poverty have a householder or spouse who worked during the year.<sup>3</sup>

## Challenge 2: Ensuring Safe, Affordable Housing

### Vision:

A community which has quality housing opportunities for families and individuals in all income ranges.



### Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>

- Public Housing maintains over 1,000 units, providing affordable housing to nearly 3,000 residents. Public Housing rent paid by tenants totaled almost four million dollars.
- The Housing Choice Voucher Program helps provide housing for over 3,400 County households, serving over 9,200 residents.
- The Fairfax County Rental Program makes almost 600 rental complex units affordable for low- to moderate-income residents.



### *Did you know?*

- The average monthly Fairfax County rental housing complex rent in 2002 was \$1,157.<sup>5</sup>
- While only 11.6% of renters nationwide pay \$1,000 or more a month in rent, nearly half (48.1%) of Fairfax County renters pay \$1,000 or more per month.<sup>3</sup>
- A fifth of owners and nearly a third of renters spend 30% or more of their income on housing.<sup>3</sup>
- Only 1.1% of owner-occupied housing is overcrowded but 7.1% of renter-occupied housing is overcrowded.<sup>3</sup>

## Challenge 3: Supporting Families and Individuals in Crisis / Preventing Abuse and Neglect

### Vision:

A community that promotes family and individual stability, in which all people are free from financial, emotional, or physical crisis, and in which all people are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.



### Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>

- Child Protective Services responded to 30,800 hotline calls and addressed over 2,400 complaints of abuse or neglect.
- The number of children in Foster Care decreased from 710 in July 1997 to 492 in July 2002
- Homeless Shelters served over 1600 single individuals and over 550 persons in families with children in FY 2001<sup>1</sup>
- Coordinated Services Planning responded to over 30,600 requests for human services assistance<sup>12</sup> and conducted over 125,000 service interactions with clients.
- Over 5,000 persons received mental health emergency assessment and stabilization services.



### *Did you know?*

- In January 2003, there were 1,944 homeless persons in Fairfax County (769 homeless individuals and 335 homeless families).<sup>7</sup>
- 1 out of 7 area households ran out of money during the past year for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine.<sup>4</sup>
- Among area households spending 50% or more of income on housing, 40.5% ran out of money during the past year for rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine.<sup>4</sup>

## Challenge 4: Protection of the Public Health

### Vision:

A healthy community environment which is free of threats to the public health.



### Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>

- Communicable Disease Control served nearly 16,400 persons in tuberculosis screening, prevention and case management, and also conducted 571 communicable disease investigations.
- 37,368 persons received HIV outreach, education, counseling and testing.
- The Consumer Services division of Environmental Health inspected nearly 2,900 food establishments in Fairfax County, providing over 19,000 services to ensure compliance with health and safety standards.
- Community Health and Safety investigated 3,147 complaints of blight, rodents and pests, trash, and other health and safety hazards.



### *Did you know?*

- 57.1% of Fairfax County's housing stock was built prior to 1980.<sup>8</sup>
- More than 82,000 area residents lack health insurance.<sup>4</sup>
- Nearly 15% of area households think restaurant food safety is a moderate or major community problem.<sup>4</sup>

## Challenge 5: Addressing Alcohol, Drug, Mental and Physical Health Issues

### Vision:

A community in which all people have access to a wide variety of affordable services for mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, and physical health care.



### Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>

- Patients made over 75,000 walk-in visits to Health clinics; almost 60,000 vaccinations were given to over 26,000 children.
- School nurses monitor health plans for more than 31,000 students.
- Students made over one million visits to school Clinic Room Aides for sickness, injury, or medications.
- The Community Health Care Network provided affordable health care services at over 44,000 primary care visits.
- Almost 4,000 adults and youth were served in mental health residential treatment programs; over 5,000 received outpatient treatment and case management.
- Almost 2,300 adults and youth received residential detoxification and substance abuse treatment; almost 4,000 received outpatient treatment and case management.



### *Did you know?*

- 2/3 of area adults without health insurance (16 and older) work full or part-time.<sup>4</sup>
- Among 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students, 44.1% have used or sold illegal drugs.<sup>9</sup>
- 1 out of 11 area residents experience mental, emotional and/or anxiety problems to the point of needing help.<sup>4</sup>
- Among 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students, 18.5% have seriously considered attempting suicide.<sup>9</sup>

## Challenge 6: Responding to Crime in the Community

### Vision:

A community which is safe from the threat of crime.



### Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>

- Over 335 at-risk youth (gang members, or referred by Police) are registered in Teen Center programs sponsored by the Department of Community and Recreation Services, the Police, and the Community Services Board.
- Teen attendance at structured Teen Center activities (other than pick-up basketball) was nearly 57,000.
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court processed over 25,000 non-traffic complaints, including over 4,800 juvenile criminal complaints.
- 71% of juvenile probationers had no new criminal petitions within 12 months of their probation; 74% of youths discharged from residential services had no new criminal petitions within 12 months.



### *Did you know?*

- 46% of 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students were bullied, taunted, ridiculed or teased in the past year.<sup>9</sup>
- 16.4% of 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students carried a weapon to school in the past year.<sup>9</sup>
- 35.7% of area households think crime is a moderate or major problem in their community.<sup>4</sup>

## Challenge 7: Providing Community- Wide and Targeted Supports

### Vision:

A community which supports and builds on the strengths of individuals, families and neighborhoods.



### Selected Programs and FY 2002 Service Statistics<sup>11</sup>

- The Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization program managed 35 revitalization projects and provided over \$560,000 in loans to homeowners or landlords for repairs.
- Attendance at Community Center activities totaled over 450,000, with almost 26,500 hours of service provided by volunteers.
- The Child Care Assistance and Referral program assisted over 32,000 families seeking information on child care.
- Participation in community-based sports programs exceeded 360,000, at over 500 County-managed athletic fields and facilities.
- In FY 2001, the School-Aged Child Care program served nearly 8,600 children at 125 sites.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly 750 families were served in the Healthy Families Fairfax and the Nurturing Program. Over 19,000 volunteer hours were provided.



### *Did you know?*

- 211,040 Fairfax County housing units were built prior to 1980.<sup>8</sup>
- A survey of immigrant and refugees found that 82.7% thought their neighbors made their family feel welcome.<sup>10</sup>
- 38.2% of area households think the lack of affordable childcare is a moderate or major community problem.<sup>4</sup>
- 23.4% of area households think lack of recreational programs are a moderate or major community problem.<sup>4</sup>

## Footnotes - Data Sources

<sup>1</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *Fairfax County Human Services Response to Challenges in the Community: FY 2001 Performance Budget*.

<sup>2</sup>Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget, *Fiscal Year 2003 Adopted Budget Plan*.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, Summary File 3.

<sup>4</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment*.

<sup>5</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *2002 Rental Housing Complex Census Analysis*.

<sup>6</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *Demographic Reports 2001*.

<sup>7</sup>Fairfax County, Continuum of Care 2003 Point in Time Survey of Homelessness.

<sup>8</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *2002 Urban Development Information System*.

<sup>9</sup>Fairfax County, Virginia, *Communities That Care: 2001 Youth Survey*.

<sup>10</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *A Community Sampler: Eight Immigrant and Refugee Communities with Public School Children*.

<sup>11</sup>Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget, *Fiscal Year 2004 Advertised Budget Plan*.

<sup>12</sup>Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services.

## Where can I learn more?

The following reports and other information sources are available on the County web site, or call Maps and Publications at (703) 324-2974. Many of the documents are also available at local libraries.

### About Fairfax County: Maps, Facts, and Stats

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aboutfairfax/default.htm>

### U.S. Census Information about Fairfax County

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/comm/demogrph/2000DecennialCensus.htm> or visit the U.S. Census website at <http://www.census.gov>

### Inventory of Fairfax County Programs, Activities, and Services

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/omb/icaps.htm>

### Fairfax County FY 2003 Adopted Budget and FY 2004 Advertised Budget

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget>

### Human Services Resource Guide

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rim/>

### County Human Services Related Web Pages

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/healthhuman/human.htm>

### Reports about Fairfax County Human Services

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/reports/index.htm>

This site includes links to or downloads of the full text of the following reports:

- *A Community Sampler: Eight Immigrant and Refugee Communities with Public School Children*
- *Communities That Care: 2001 Youth Survey Report*
- *2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment*
- *FY 2001 Human Services Performance Budget*
- *Selected Trends in Service Utilization and Demand*
- *Long-Term Care Citizen Task Force Summary and Appendices*